

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4587
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 11004

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: PAK REACTION TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO

1. REACTION IN PAKISTAN TO US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO HAS RANGED FROM DISAPPOINTMENT TO DISAPPROVAL. MFA OFFICIALS IN PARTICULAR HAVE BEEN MORE CRITICAL OF THE US DECISION THAN WE WOULD HAVE EXPECTED. DURING A MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON OTHER ISSUES, FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHNAWAZ RAISED THE ISSUE OF THE US WITHDRAWAL. HE, LIKE OTHERS, ASCRIBED US DEPARTURE TO OUR DISPLEASURE WITH ANTI-ISRAELI, PRO-PLO STEPS IN THE ILO AND PRESSURES FROM THE "ZIONIST LOBBY" IN THE STATES. HE LISTENED TO, BUT OBVIOUSLY DID NOT FULLY ACCEPT, THE EXPLANATION THAT OUR CONCERNS AND REASONS FOR LEAVING WERE BROADER AND WERE BASED ON FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF HOW THE ILO IMPLEMENTS ITS MANDATE. TOUQIR HUSSAIN, MFA DIRECTOR (AMERICAS) IN A MEETING WITH EMBOFFHULSO CRITICIZED THE US MOVE IN FAIRLY EXPLICIT TERMS AND GREETED SCEPTICALLY THE US RATIONALE
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FOR WITHDRAWAL.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENTS HAVE BEEN LIMITED BUT CRITICAL.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE "PAKISTAN TIMES" IN AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "POINTLESS EXIT" STATES THAT THE US DECISION TO FINALLY WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO IS TO BE REGRETTED AND

DEPLORED. THE EDITORIAL CONTENDS THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR WASHINGTON'S REASONS FOR LEAVING, AND NOTES THAT THE CHIEF REASON FOR THE WITHDRAWAL WAS THE PGAITICIZATION OF THE ILO (THE EDITORIAL ADDS POLITICS CANNOT BE DIVORCED FROM SOME ISSUES). THE PAPER STATES THIS CENTERS ON US PIQUE OVER THE ILO'S CONDEMNATION OF ISRAEL AND IT IS IRONIC THAT PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO SAYS HE IS CRUSADING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, SHOULD BE THE ONE TO TAKE HIS COUNTRY OUT OF THE WORLD'S PREMIER ORGANIZATION WORKING FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS

OF WORKERS. THE EDITORIAL EXPRESSES THE HOPE THAT THE US WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW ITS STAND SOON AND THAT FOR ITS PART, THE ILO SHOULD CARRY ON ITS GOOD WORK. THE EDITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THERE MAY BE A POINT TO SOME OF THE OTHER US CRITICISMS; NAMELY THAT THE TRIPARTITE PRINCIPLE IS NOT BEING STRICTLY OBSERVED, THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT BEEN UNIFORMLY COGNIZANT OF VIOLATIONS OF ITS CONVENTIONS AND SAYS THAT THESE ISSUES SHOULD BE REVIEWED.

3. EDITORIALS IN THE URDU DAILY "IMROZ" AND THE "MORNING NEWS" STATE THAT THE US WITHDRAWAL IS BASED ON AMERICAN ANGER OVER THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAELI TREATMENT OF ARAB WORKERS. THEY STATE THAT THE US WITHDRAWAL CONTRADICTS THE US PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSED CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTE THAT THE ILO HAS DONE MUCH FOR

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WORKERS' RIGHTS IN THE WORLD AND SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY ALL INCLUDING THE US.

4. COMMENT: COMMENTS BY GOP OFFICIALS ON OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE UJO HAVE BEEN MORE EXPLICIT AND CRITICAL THAN WE EXPECTED AND NPRES STRONGER THAN CRITICISMS WE HAVE RECEIVED ON VARIOUS OTHER ISSUES. THE STATEMENTS BY MFA OFFICIALS REFLECT, IN SOME MEASURE, THE GOP FEAR, EXPRESSED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, THAT US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO LEAVES THE ORGANIZATION VULNERABLE TO SOVIET CONTROL AND MANIPULATION.

HUMMEL

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